**News-report regarding death of elephants in Kazhiranga and Manas reserves**

37. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJI-RAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND "FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report in "The Statement", dated 30 December, 1996 that a large number of elephants in the Kazhiranga and Manas reserves of Assam have starved to death during the past six months due to non-payment of bills for elephant-feed to its suppliers;

(b) the total number of elephants died of starvation and otherwise in Assam and in other States during this period and in the preceding two spells of six months each; and

(c) the steps taken to preserve and promote this majestic animal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) The Govemment has seen the newspaper report in the Statement of December 30, 1996. The State Govemment has reported that there is no death of departmental elephants by starvation during 1995-96.

(b) The information on captive elephants in lndia is not compiled or collated in this Ministry as a large number of elephants are owned by private individuals and organisations. The number of wild elephants reported to have died due to natural causes and poaching is annexed. (See below).

(c) To preserve the majestic animal, the elephant have been placed under the Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. In order to discourage paching of tuskers a ban has been placed on the trade in ivory. For international control, the elephant has been included in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES), which prohibits international trade among the signatory countries in ivory. In order to strengthen the protection of elephant populations and their natural habitats in India, the Govemment of India has launched Project Elephant to provide assistance to the elephant range states.

**Statement**

| SI. State | 1993-94 | | 1994-95 | | 1995-96 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| No. | N | P | N | P | N | P |
| 1. Andhra Pradesh | Nil | 1 | Nil | 1 | Nil | Nil |
| 2. Arunachal Pradesh SH | Nil | Nil | 4 | Nil | 2 | Nil |
| 3. Assam | 20 | 4 | 24 | 3 | 14 | 6 |
| 4. Bihar | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | 1 |
| 5. Karnataka | 3 | 12 | 4 | 18 | - | 10 |
| 6. Kerala | 6 | 6 | 33 | 3 | 34 | 3 |
| 7. Meghalaya | Nil | 1 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 10 |
| 8. Nagaland | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | 6 | 8 |
| 9. Orissa | - | 12 | - | 13 | 6 | 10 |
| 10.Tamil Nadu | - | 2 | - | 4 | - | 7 |
| 11. Uttar Pradesh | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | - | 19 |
| 12. West Bengal | 12 | 2 | 13 | 3 | 6 | 3 |
| Total | 41 | 40 | 85 | 46 | 77 | 77 |

**Hearing deficiency due to noise pollution**

38. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govemment are aware that growing noise pollution both in rural and urban areas in the country is an important cause of increasing hearing deficiency;

(b) whether it is a fact that avoidable hearing loss in rural areas is 11% and in cities it is 6%; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures Govemment propose to take?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b) Excessive noise levels may cause temporary or permanent hearing loss depending upon the intensity and duration of